

Routes to tour in Germany

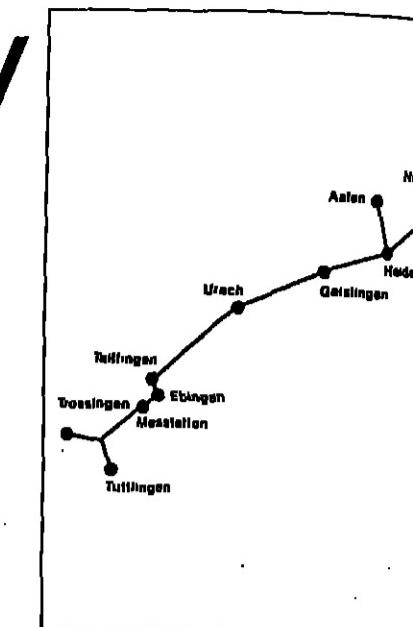
The Swabian Alb Route

German roads will get you there. South of Stuttgart the Swabian Alb runs north-east from the Black Forest. It is a range of hills full of fossilised reminders of prehistory. It has a blustery but healthy climate, so have good walking shoes with you and scale a few heights as you try out some of the 6,250 miles of marked paths. Dense forests, caves full of stalactites and stalagmites, ruined castles and rocks that invite you to clamber will ensure variety.



You will also see what you can't see from a car: rare flowers and plants. The route runs over 125 miles through health resorts and nature reserves, passing Baroque churches, late Gothic and Rococo architecture and Hohenzollern Castle, home of the German Imperial family. Visit Germany and let the Swabian Alb Route be your guide.

DZT
DEUTSCHE ZENTRALE
FÜR TOURISMUS EV
Beethovenstrasse 69, D-6000 Frankfurt/M.



- 1 View of the Hegau region, near Tübingen
- 2 Heidenheim
- 3 Nördlingen
- 4 Ulm
- 5 Hohenzollern Castle

The German Tribune

Hamburg, 12 March 1989
Twenty-eighth year - No. 1362 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858
DEPOSE A BX X

New frontiers to go for at renewed Vienna talks

The negotiations in Vienna on conventional arms reduction in Europe are more important than all previous efforts by the two world powers to contain nuclear armament.

The ultimate aim is to ensure a mutually agreed balance of military power, discernibly intended for defence purposes only, by removing the Warsaw Pact's extensive invasion capability risk.

The negotiators of the 23 NATO and Warsaw Pact member states will have to solve some pretty awkward military questions.

First of all, they must agree on the conference's terms of reference and schedule to prevent the talks from foundering in the face of the first major obstacle, the dispute

turing of the Soviet system he must give the satellites more freedom. This, admittedly, must be compatible with Moscow's new security interests, which have yet to be defined. This could lead to a gradual elimination of antagonisms between East and West. NATO found it extremely difficult to work out its line of negotiation for the arms control talks in Vienna. The West

can be established in the mandate by means of agreement on regular reporting to the twelve neutral and non-aligned states participating in the CSCE process as well as with the help of the parallel continuation in Vienna of talks by the 35 CSCE member states on confidence-building measures and disarmament in Europe.

The overall framework of the Vienna talks on conventional arms control is therefore circumscribed by the objectives of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

This does not alter the autonomy of these arms control talks insisted upon by the United States.

The peripheral European states in northern Europe and in the Mediterranean region occasionally had their suspicions that the aim of talks was simply to draw up a political dividing line in Europe.

The reduction of the military threat and political progress are inseparable.

The West and the neutral states can quite rightly point towards the success achieved by the Vienna CSCE final document.

The Soviet Union has come to realise that the CSCE, in all its dimensions, is a dynamic process and thus no substitute for a peace treaty consolidating the status quo of 1945.

If Mikhail Gorbachov intends gaining more room to manoeuvre for the restruc-

tioning of the Soviet system he must give the satellites more freedom. This, admittedly, must be compatible with Moscow's new security interests, which have yet to be defined. This could lead to a gradual elimination of antagonisms between East and West. NATO found it extremely difficult to work out its line of negotiation for the arms control talks in Vienna. The West

Continued on

page 2

Menuhin award

Sir Yehudi Menuhin, the violinist (left) with Bonn President Richard von Weizsäcker after receiving in Bonn the Buber-Rosenzweig medal for services to mankind. (Photo: AP)

Are alluring new shores really beckoning the Germans?

No matter what the Germans do they are sure to set tongues wagging in neighbouring countries. This, it seems, is part of their fate.

The Germans as wanderers between the worlds, the Germans on Gorbachov's lime-twigs — clichés instead of facts.

Instead of complaining about stereotypes, it would be better to take a closer look at how such misunderstandings have evolved.

Every new discussion about Europe is automatically accompanied by a discussion about the stance of the Germans be-

tween East and West. If, for example, the situation changes in Eastern Europe — one need only point towards the pluralistic tendencies in Hungary and Poland — the question of the associated effects for Bonn's Ostpolitik immediately surfaces.

After all, the Bonn governments have devoted more attention to this field over the past decades than other western governments — in their own interests.

The *New York Times* surprisingly observed that the (West) Germans are the only nation in the West with what could be labelled as a concept for coming to terms with the new situation in which the independence of the Eastern European states is becoming ever more visible.

In some western visions of the future there is already reference to an annulment of the Yalta resolutions of 1945. The division of Europe agreed on then might one day end and the Germans, with the close contacts fostered over the years, might take on a leading role.

Are the Germans on the verge of loosening their mooring and setting course for unknown and alluring shores in a "new megalomania" (Arnulf Baring)?

Opinion polls are cited as proof of such suspicions. For example, the fact that 80% of West Germans welcome Gorbachov's disarmament proposals and regard a withdrawal of all nuclear weapons from Europe as possible.

Bonn is finding it increasingly difficult to allay the concern in the West.

References to Bonn's undiminished contributions to defence and professions of loyalty to the western community of values help improve the situation.

Continued on page 2



Call for chemical-weapons ban

Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (left) and Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti pictured at the United Nations conference on chemical weapons in Geneva. (Photo: dpa)

■ INTERNATIONAL

Europe the honest broker in Central America?

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

The détente in East-West relations has created an atmosphere in which it has become possible to mitigate conflicts which were hitherto regarded as insoluble. This applies to the Gulf war as well as to the Afghanistan conflict.

In southern Africa, Asia and the Middle East there are also signs of a conciliatory spirit which is long overdue.

In one region, however, the spreading mood of pacification has hardly borne fruit in Central America.

After the presidents of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica reached agreement on a peace plan for Central America ("Esquipulas II") in August 1987 it looked as if the politicians of this region would be able to solve their problems themselves.

The objectives formulated by Costa Rica's president Arias and hailed by all five presidents were national reconciliation, putting a stop to civil wars, and democratisation.

The dream of pulling oneself out of the quagmire by the scruff of one's own neck, however, can only come true in the land of fairytales.

The regional arrangement lacked a firm basis of a willingness on the part of the two superpowers to foster the "peace process" in Central America with initiatives of their own.

All the efforts to establish peace in this region, therefore, ended up in deadlock.

There was a risk that the "Arias plan" would founder just like the proposals and plans which previously bore the name "Contadora."

During the renewed Central American "summit" the five countries managed to make a certain amount of headway.

This is undoubtedly connected with the continuingly good general political climate worldwide.

In the near future Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov will be visiting Cuba.

Washington hopes that during his visit he will be able to exert his moderating influence on Fidel Castro, the patron of all revolutionaries in Latin America.

President Bush has hinted that Central America could become a further example for the "new spirit of cooperation" between the Soviet Union and the United States.

The situation in this region, however, is also influenced by changes there since 1987.

The most important factor is the probably definitive collapse of the anti-Sandinist rebels as a serious military opponent of the Nicaraguan regime.

The "Contras" have failed because of their own disunity and because of the politics of the United States.

The "hawks" and "doves" in the Reagan Administration and in Congress held each other in check.

Whereas the "hawks" hoped for a military defeat of the Sandinists, the "doves" were at most willing to accept "Contra" aid as a means of forcing the Sandinistas into negotiations with their political rivals and bringing about a

democratisation of the regime. The first goal was never a realistic one without intervention by American troops; despite slight progress the second goal also fell through because of in-fighting in Washington.

The fact that President Ortega was at all willing to make concessions at the last Central American "summit" was due to Nicaragua's economic situation, which can only be described as catastrophic.

It has become clear that the Soviet Union is no longer willing to provide the tremendous assistance (in the form of arms and raw materials supplies) it once did for its clients in the Third World.

The Sandinistas are now obliged to tap new sources in an effort to avoid economic collapse.

Ortega recently promised the "private sector," the businessmen who decided to stay in Nicaragua, more cooperation, in particular a reduction of government intervention in economic affairs.

He is unlikely to achieve a great deal, however, with the help of vague assurances.

The Sandinistas need help from abroad — and look first and foremost to the European Community.

It was certainly no coincidence that the revival of the Arias plan took place shortly before the Central Americans convened with Community delegates for the fifth annual conference on the European Community ("San José V").

Nicaragua is not alone in its search for financial support. The other countries in this region have turned hope-

Continued from page 1

is unable to impress its own public opinion in the same manner as Gorbachov.

This is often forgotten in the enthusiasm which greets Soviet arms reduction offers.

The difference between a highly armed nuclear land power with short channels of communication, such as the Soviet Union, and the naval power decisively responsible for the protection of Western Europe, the United States, cannot be ignored.

The Soviets are again trying to include naval forces in the Vienna talks on conventional arms control.

Although Moscow doesn't like to hear it, this suggestion is unacceptable.

Safeguarding the vital transatlantic sea links remains an integral component of an effective Nato strategy.

Both naval forces and nuclear weapons are excluded from the mandate for negotiations on conventional arms control.

The main objective in Vienna is to reduce the Warsaw Pact's superiority (which it admits in its own figures) in terms of tanks, artillery and infantry combat vehicles.

These are the really dangerous categories, since they pave the way for a major attack. Neither naval forces nor aircraft have this task.

Aircraft could become an item of negotiation at some later stage. Nuclear weapons remain political weapons of deterrence.

As long as the Warsaw Pact does not

fully to the European Community. Their interest not only centres on the financial aspect, but also on the "model" character of the European Community in Third World countries.

The Arias plan was linked with the project of a "Central American parliament" along the lines of the European Parliament.

It was hoped that such a parliament might then become the political superstructure for a Central American Common Market.

Together with a number of other agreements at "Esquipulas II" this has remained a project.

In future the Europeans should tie their political and financial assistance to this region to the fulfilment of these plans.

This would give them an effective lever for ensuring the continuation of the peace process.

A first step in this direction would be to allow observers from European Community member states to verify the disbandment of the "Contra" camps in Honduras, the resettlement of the rebels and the holding of free elections in all five countries.

For historical reasons the United States is not a credible "honest broker" in the eyes of the Central Americans. This is a role the Europeans could take on.

Genscher's appeal not to miss a historical opportunity of the Gorbachov era meets with a reserved response.

Western Europe cannot — economically, politically or strategically — assume the role of a rival or even "substitute" for the United States on the isthmus between North and South America.

European initiatives can only be successful if they take into account US-American interests and are therefore — at least tacitly — backed by Washington.

Günther Nonneumacher
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
für Deutschland, 6 March 1989)

Germany

Continued from page 1

Yet one small detail such as the question of the modernisation of short-range missiles would suffice to renew confusion.

Does Bonn want this modernisation at all or is it bent solely upon disengagement?

The new offer made by the Soviet Foreign Minister Karpovna includes nuclear short-range systems in the process of disarmament is bound to revive this discussion.

The forthcoming Vienna talks on conventional arms control will show how seriously the Soviets are about this proposal.

There is more behind this discussion than first meets the eye, and the German expression *Gesamtkonzept* (overall concept) so often ridiculed in the Nato does make sense.

What is meant is the basic stance needed in dealing with the East bloc "empire."

The discord which has existed between Bonn and its allies on this point since the speech in Davos by Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in 1986 is yet to be reconciled.

Genscher's appeal not to miss a historical opportunity of the Gorbachov era meets with a reserved response.

Genscher would still like to come to an alliance to his view of East-West relations.

That corresponds to Herr Kohl's viewpoint that a strategy debate like a change of direction is inappropriate at present.

How, in any case, is a popular party suddenly to switch direction? One of its characteristic features is that it absorbs a wide range of trends and appeals to a wide range of voters.

No mention was made of an imminent swaying of the political pendulum to either the left or the right.

That corresponds to Herr Kohl's viewpoint that a strategy debate like a change of direction is inappropriate at present.

How, in any case, is a popular party suddenly to switch direction? One of its characteristic features is that it absorbs a wide range of trends and appeals to a wide range of voters.

No one group of voters who sympa-

HOME AFFAIRS

Conservative union rejects a change of direction after failure in Berlin



THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

12 March 1989

No. 1362 - 12 March 1989

■ EURO POLITICS

Aliens-poll vote a break for Republicans

Franz Schönhuber, a former SS man and leader of the Republican Party, which did well at the polls recently in Berlin, is on the quiet delighted that elections to the European Parliament are shortly to be held.

Tactically, for the European Parliament election, it suits him and the Republicans that a chance majority in Strasbourg has advocated giving all foreign residents the vote in local government elections.

In a surprise coup there was a clear majority for a motion tabled by French Communist Francis Wurtz. Few seats in the Parliament were occupied at the time; only half of the 518 Euro-MPs were present.

This distorted the appeal for voting rights in local elections for European Community citizens into a vote for voting rights for all foreigners no matter from which country they originate.

In doing this the European Parliament has regrettably scored an own-goal. The question of foreigners has stirred up public opinion in the Federal Republic at the moment.

All shades of right-wing extremists, who see their chances since the favourable election result in Berlin, are bringing to the foreground in the European Parliament election xenophobia and a sense of nationalist feeling to attack Euro-rents and Euro-MPs in Brussels and Strasbourg who want nothing to do with the concept of "fatherland."

They are setting the mood for a new nationalism and against the European Community. The Republican cry is: "First Germany, then Europe."

Will their calculations pay off? Will the German electorate in the European Parliament elections on 18 June send anti-Europeans from the right and the Greens on the left to Strasbourg?

Pollsters warn that the cheap propaganda from the right is likely to fall on fertile ground.

Right-wing anti-Europe groups could profit from the widely held "paymaster theory," the belief that the Federal Republic foots the lion's share of the Community bill, and from xenophobia.

According to one survey about 60 to 70 per cent of voters are of the view that the door will be opened to narcotics dealers and criminals when controls within the single European market are dismantled.

Even if extreme right-wing German groups are not successful in getting into the European Parliament their participation in the election will not be without its advantages.

The points they have brought into focus will presumably have to be taken up by the other parties to defend themselves from attacks from the right.

Gerhard Schmidt, an SPD European Parliament member, spoke of "themes that have brought about immobilisation." He said that right extremists had hobbled the democratic parties with these themes.

No-one had previously considered that the Republicans' Berlin election success would probably influence the European Parliament election. But it has introduced more conflict, more emotion.

Surveys have shown that the voting potential of the three established parties in Bonn, the Christian Democrats, the Free Democrats and the Social Democrats, is susceptible to the populist slogans of the right-wing.

Since 1984 the Free Democrats have been out of the European Parliament. Their leading candidate, Rüdiger von Wechmar, must make the leap into Strasbourg from the outside. For this reason the FDP is worried about the 18 June election.

The mood among the CDU-CSU and the SPD, just a few months before the election, is muted.

For the SPD the election will be a test of the party's prestige for the Federal Republic's general election in 1990.

Can the SPD now outstrip the CDU/CSU? Can SPD leader Hans-Jochen Vogel convince his voters that the SPD has a chance of gaining a majority during Bonn's ratification of the Single European Act?

The mood among the CDU/CSU is not very glowing and they are likely to have another setback on their hands.

The European Parliament election does not put a new government in power, so many voters feel there is little at stake. As a consequence protest voters could give the government a jolt without risk.

Apart from the populist slogans of the right there is danger from another quarter for the three established parties in Bonn.

According to a poll conducted last December about 40 per cent of the electorate have decided not to vote in the European Parliament election or they are not yet certain whether it is worth going to the voting stations or not.

In the second direct election in 1984 there was a drop to only 56.8 per cent of voter participation, and this tendency is continuing obviously. The parties are fearing the worst.

These fears have been strengthened by an obvious change of opinion, recorded not only by pollsters but also by Euro-politicians in direct contact with their constituents.

In spite of the sense of settling out on a new road, the single European market, common among our neighbours, there is

an increase in scepticism and anxiety in the Federal Republic about the disadvantages of the proposed opening up of frontiers within the European Community.

According to one survey about 60 to 70 per cent of voters are of the view that the door will be opened to narcotics dealers and criminals when controls within the single European market are dismantled.

Even if extreme right-wing German groups are not successful in getting into the European Parliament their participation in the election will not be without its advantages.

The offices of the states have already justified themselves as an early warning system.

This was so when the French threatened to complain to the European Court of Justice about the Federal Republic for having infringed Community regulations with the arrangement between coalmining and the power industry to use (dearer) German coal.

French nuclear power stations produce a surplus of power, which the French would very much like to export to the Federal Republic.

The power industry in Federal Republic is committed to buying domestic coal. The difference in price between German and (cheaper) imported coal is offset by an 8.5-per-cent surcharge on all electricity bills.

Getting information and opinions in good time is of particular importance for the coalmining regions of North Rhine-Westphalia and the Saar so as to take action in emergencies.

Most federal states have transferred

Keeping alert in the Great Brussels Lobbyist Club

Brussels is like an enormous club of lobbyists. Anyone wanting to join in the game must keep on his toes.

Everyone of the 12 member-states has a representative in Brussels with the rank of ambassador.

When in 1987 the European Council signed the Single European Act, to set up the single European market at the end of 1992, the German *Länder*, or federal states, which have no legal responsibilities in European Community decision-making, struck a deal for a right to a say in European matters during Bonn's ratification of the Single European Act.

So as to be better informed about what is going on the federal states have their own listening posts in Brussels.

Hesse is the last of the 11 federal states to set up an information bureau. There have been observers, accredited to the Council of Ministers, from the *Länder* since 1956.

The Brussels bureau of observers with its sub-office in the Baden-Württemberg office in Bonn, is manned by three officials and jointly financed on the basis of the Königstein agreement.

Despite the presence of the federal states in Brussels the institution of state observers has remained.

The Bonn government, which is solely responsible for representing the Federal Republic in the European Community, is obliged to keep the *Länder* informed on all European Community affairs.

Johannes Neukirchen, senior official in the Rhineland-Palatinate representation in Bonn, said: "It is up to the Bonn authorities to notify us and not for us to have to request information from the government."

This applies mainly to legal regulations which until now fell under the jurisdiction of the states, for instance the recognition all over the European Community of school and vocational final examinations.

Before Education Minister Jürgen Möller can negotiate with his Community colleagues on this, he must first report to the federal states on his scope of action in negotiations.

The offices of the states have already justified themselves as an early warning system.

Even if extreme right-wing German groups are not successful in getting into the European Parliament their participation in the election will not be without its advantages.

The offices of the states have already justified themselves as an early warning system.

It extends from the ecologists, who fear a European watering down of the allegedly strict West German environmental protection regulations, to trades unionists who speak of "social dumping" in the European Community.

It even includes Bavarian brewers and butchers, who complain about the decline of the German work break, because a ruling of the European Court of Justice has opened up German frontiers to foreign beer, soya sausages and French truffle paté.

Although the Federal Republic's economy will be the greatest gainer from the single European market, the

Continued on page 10

their Europe department to their authorised representatives in Bonn. Herr Neukirchen says: "That is practical, because the strands of Community policy run together at central government."

Furthermore Land Ministers & Bundesrat (Upper House) do not specific portfolios and so can themselves the luxury of a controversial viewpoint.

Among them are also experts in Community matters, such as the Minister for Federal Government in European Affairs, Oskar Hahn. He is the driving force behind the "Permanent Council," the committee of the federal representatives.

After every Bonn Cabinet meeting they congregate in Room 13 of the Bundesrat for a briefing by Lutz Stavenhagen, Minister of State at the Chancellor's Office in charge of European Affairs.

Approximately 50 per cent of current Cabinet discussions concern European Community legislation. Herr Neukirchen says: "Hahn is such a professional that no-one pulls the wool over his eyes."

Before the federal states set up here in Brussels, they tried to integrate the observers into the Federal Republic Permanent Representation at the European Community. That would have provided them with office accommodation and access to all information.

This founded on questions of competence. Foreign Minister Genscher, the "employer" of the German ambassador to the European Community, insisted on his seniority.

Furthermore the representation is not in a position to satisfy the various interests of all 11 federal states.

Manfred Fröhlich of the Bavarian representation in Bonn tartly commented: "They only saw themselves as splendid diplomats."

The Bavarian representation still has to deal with enquiries, paper work and instructions on European matters. Like central government the Bavarian state government has set up a European Affairs department in every ministry.

Former Community commissioners Wilhelm Haferkamp is regarded as a pioneer of federal state interests in Brussels.

His Hanseatic Bureau supplies governments of Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein and Bremen with information.

Hahn said that the "pooling solution" is not necessarily the most cost-effective.

The Saar's Office for Information & Economic Promotion in Brussels has an annual budget of DM180,000, employing three female staff members.

Hahn said: "Most of the other states have civil servants in their offices. This naturally costs more."

To be close to where all the action takes place, the European Commission headquarters at Berlaymont, Brussels is an advantage.

The Rhineland-Palatinate representation has found an address which is rich in connections: the corner of rue de la Loi and rue de Commerce.

Compared with good years, when exports were valued at between DM7bn and DM8bn, that was not so much after all, still less measured in terms of what exports could be worth in the future.

After the end of the Gulf War, busi-

■ PERSPECTIVE

The pros and cons of using economic boycott against Iran's theocracy

The Bundestag is presenting a rare picture of unanimity over the Salman Rushdie affair: all parties condemn Ayatollah Khomeini's call for the murder of the writer.

Officials in Teheran estimated \$100bn worth of damage had been inflicted on the Iranian oil industry alone. Reconstruction in Iran held up by mullahs involved in Iranian trade expected a record export boom. Estimates of war damage hovered between \$3bn and a trillion dollars.

They are also united in a call for a "universal answer" to the Iranian religious leader's murder order.

In addition Heinrich Lummer, Berlin CDU Bundestag member, called for economic sanctions — a move his party has not so frowned upon.

Among them are also experts in Community matters, such as the Minister for Federal Government in European Affairs, Oskar Hahn. He is the driving force behind the "Permanent Council," the committee of the federal representatives.

The incitement to murder Mr Rushdie made by the Iranian ex officio religious leader has had more effect than the masses of opponents of the regime who have been hanged, or the thousands of boy soldiers who have been murdered, ordered into the Gulf War by fanatic mullahs as cannon fodder, sacrificed with the promise that they would instantly enter into paradise.

It only required a murder contract authorised by the Iranian state to rouse the western world to solidarity against the totalitarian religious regime in Teheran.

Suggestions of economic boycott have not only been made in the Bundestag. Hans Peter Stihl, president of the Düsseldorf-based Federation of German Trade Unions, has committed himself in a way which is fairly rare among German businessmen.

A slogan of the official German-Iranian Chamber of Trade is: "Countries like Iran are few and far between."

At the end of last year Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Housing Minister Oscar Schneider visited Teheran. The pilgrimages of these ministers seemed to confirm what has indicated at the industrial fair.

The mechanical engineering industry alone calculated that over the next four years Iran would have a demand from the mechanical engineering sector worth about DM2.5bn.

Iranian officials made it quite clear how vital Western assistance was: harbours were destroyed, petro-chemical

plant had been ruined, for years sugar factories had been rotted away, power stations were shattered, communications facilities had gone to seed and agriculture was lying fallow. All these were crying out for the expertise of German companies.

So far nothing has been decided. But before the British decide on a tougher line — Salman Rushdie is a British citizen — the Federal Republic should not get overenthusiastic about taking a lead.

Baron Rochus-Ernst von Lüttwitz, director of the Hamburg-based German-Iranian Chamber of Trade, has recommended member firms "to keep calm."

He is hoping that matters will not come to sanctions. He said: "German-Iranian economic relations are at the present marking time."

But he added optimistically: "Everything should be put on the back-burner so that not too much goes up in flames."

The commitment of Iran to allow United Nations human rights representatives to visit the country without hindrance was not kept, despite many warnings from the Bonn Foreign Ministry.

Herr Genscher's patience was so taxed that he did not exercise his usual restraint after Khomeini's murder order and no longer opposed measures against Iran.

There had been friction between Bonn and Teheran in the negotiations for the arrangements for trading relations. Both were agreed that the joint German-Iranian Economic Commission should meet during this year.

Requirements from Iran: today the figure is 3.6 per cent.

According to Herr Uekert the question of the regularity of supplies is much more decisive. Unlike the Japanese the Federal Republic did not rely on supplies from Iran so long as the Gulf War was being waged. This could be changed now.

But changes will not come about in the immediate future. For the time being all official contacts are broken off, so negotiations about the financing of Iranian reconstruction will have to be put on ice.

Baron von Lüttwitz said: "We cannot do what we intended to do to achieve stability in Iran and strengthen Western interests there."

It is doubtful whether the situation will change in the immediate future. Iranian experts are agreed that the condemnation of the Rushdie book and the incitement to murder its author was not a spontaneous act.

It was much more likely to have been managed with considerable calculation, aimed at strengthening Khomeini's theocracy, which was becoming unstable, and putting the moderate forces on the fringe under pressure. This seems to have been successful.

There has been wide agreement with Khomeini's actions and the presidential election has been postponed from spring to summer. By doing this the fundamentalists have gained more time to discredit Mr Rafsanjani, who is popular among the people.

Most experts doubt that substantial economic sanctions would force the fundamentalist mullahs to turn back.

There are two aspects to economic sanctions. Should there be a total boycott on the damage to West German exports would be limited, as would be the case with most Western industrialised nations.

At the present low volume of trade with Iran, German exports to the country add up to no more than one per cent of the total.

There has been much discussion of major projects but nothing concrete has materialised as yet.

After Housing Minister Schneider's visit to Teheran the construction industry had high hopes of many lucrative contracts, but a spokesman for the industry said: "We are not affected by the present crisis since there are no major building contracts at the moment."

Lufthansa has also not been hurt much by the halt to scheduled services to Teheran — two flights a week.

A boycott could be seen by Iran in quite a different way. A half of Iran's imports come from the West. Unlike Iraq, Iran is almost free of debt, but foreign currency reserves are almost exhausted and only oil exports can earn more.

If it is estimated that Iran earns about \$10bn per year from oil. Should Iran's major oil customers, the USA, Japan and the Netherlands, agree on an oil boycott the mullahs would have no money in a very short space of time.

That would not have any influence on them, however. Economist Heinrich Machowski of the Berlin-based German Institute for Economic Research regards economic embargos as far too imprecise an instrument of policy. He said: "It would not affect the government. The effects would be shifted to the people."

Sanctions would bring with them the danger that they would be regarded by the people as an international

■ BUSINESS

Bankers and police swarm round ailing retail group

DIE WELT

Five public prosecutors, 35 detectives and 15 fiscal authority inspectors swarmed out in mid-February for a major investigation.

The targets of this operation were the Frankfurt headquarters of the wholesale and retail company group co op AG, its subsidiaries in other cities and the residential premises of former members of the group's managing board and its chief accountant.

It has become clear that the liabilities of the giant enterprise were probably six times higher than in the company's accounting statements.

There are not yet sufficient grounds to warrant a charge of fraud. Such a discrepancy between internal calculations and published company statements, however, suggest that there soon will be.

This is the story from the point of view of criminal law.

The whole affair has been accompanied by dramatic meetings of the 120 creditor banks to work out a rescue plan to save the group from bankruptcy.

The banks have agreed to waive claims amounting to billions of deutschmarks and to buy one of the group's production subsidiaries to get the money for the rescue operation.

It is still not clear how much will be needed, since it is uncertain just how much the integration of the international business of the co op AG, which is consolidated in the Swiss Garvey holding company, will burden the overall calculation.

The transactions in connection with this holding company shed some light on the business conduct of the co op.

Co op repurchased the Garvey holding company, the majority shareholder in a Hamburg-based real estate company which owns property worth an estimated DM1.6bn.

The repurchase was only possible through the company Burlington Ltd., the sole holder of the Swiss holding company, which resides on the Cayman Islands.

The letter-box company only has \$900,000 worth of capital. Only one share was issued at the par value of \$1. This belonged to a lawyer in Liechtenstein.

There are speculations that the man behind the lawyer was Bernd Otto, the chairman of the co op group who has in the meantime been dismissed without notice.

Right from the very start Otto, a resolute and power-conscious person, shaped the development of the group which emerged from the trade union movement.

The former secretary of the Federation of German Trade Unions (DGB) became chairman of the managing board of the co op, which was set up in 1974, in 1980.

Up until well into the 1980s the group had to come to terms with its past errors.

It had to incorporate the former consumers' cooperative into the group and effect the necessary modernisation.

Otto, who soon dissociated himself from the trade unions and placed particular emphasis on the fact that the group was not a non-profit organisation, set about sorting out the group's problems.

Following his decision to expand he discovered that he had a significant disadvantage in comparison with his competitors.

He lacked the money needed to keep pace with the "acquisition rush" which had seized the entire industry at that time.

It was not easy to persuade the trade unions to increase share capital. Otto tried his luck with bank loans.

With their help he bought three food chains with a total turnover of DM2bn in autumn 1987.

The dependence on banks grew and grew. Part of corporate policy was to keep the group's structures as obscure as possible.

Otto's aim was to create a group by setting up new businesses, changing the legal forms of existing firms and selling off shares which would enable problems to be solved on an "in-group" basis.

The justification given for this policy was to save tax. The network which emerged became more and more confusing.

Level-headed trade unionists have drawn their conclusions from the fate of the Neue Heimat and the co op groups. They openly admit that being entrepreneurs is not really up their street.

Failed to fulfil their duties. Some of them may have lacked the qualifications for the job. Others may have been too closely attached to cooperative objectives, which are orientated to covering costs rather than making a profit.

Many a supervisory board member may have been so entangled in the web of intra-group links that he looked the other way when he should have shown greater scrutiny.

The tragic suicide attempt by the deputy chairman of the co op supervisory board Günter Döding, head of the food and catering trade union, would suggest that, as in the case of the scandal surrounding the Neue Heimat housing group, some supervisory board members were offered trips abroad and other "presents" to persuade them not to be so strict in their supervisory control.

It was not easy to persuade the trade unions to increase share capital. Otto tried his luck with bank loans.

However, we should avoid jumping to the conclusion that inadequate supervision is typical for companies run by the trade unions.

There are plenty of examples of similar shortcomings in capitalist enterprises.

In co op's case there was an obvious desire to create a confusing web-work of company links with insufficient share capital and incomprehensible ownership structures.

In the end no-one knew who owed how much to whom. This went unnoticed for so long because the supervisory board members failed to do their job properly.

Level-headed trade unionists have drawn their conclusions from the fate of the Neue Heimat and the co op groups. They openly admit that being entrepreneurs is not really up their street.

Rudolf Herlt

(Die Welt, Bonn, 2 March 1989)

Link mooted between suicide bid and newspaper report

Günter Döding, 58, chairman of the food and catering union Gewerkschaft Nahrung-Genuss-Gästetätten (NGG) was last month discovered lying in a pool of blood in his office after what is believed to be a suicide attempt. He is now said to be off the danger list. The union is entangled in the co op affair. Co op is a retailing group which has run into financial trouble and there are allegations of irregularities in the accounts.

The letter-box company only has \$900,000 worth of capital. Only one share was issued at the par value of \$1. This belonged to a lawyer in Liechtenstein.

There are speculations that the man behind the lawyer was Bernd Otto, the chairman of the co op group who has in the meantime been dismissed without notice.

Döding now unexpectedly finds himself entangled in the affair surrounding the co op retailing group.

The NGG leader has been deputy chairman of the co op supervisory board since 1975.

In the co op scandal the public prosecutor's office is investigating against co op chairman Bernd Otto, three other members of the co op managing board and the group's chief accountant on the strong suspicion of a falsification of accounts.

Döding, who holds numerous posts and honorary posts, was particularly praised following his decision to donate his salary as member of the supervisory

board (over DM100,000 a year) for trade union educational work without making any personal deductions.

Trade union circles feel that there is a link between the report published in the weekly magazine *Der Spiegel* on presents and trips paid for by the co op group and the union leader's attempted suicide.

In 1982 Döding and his wife suffered tremendously after their only child, their 20-year-old daughter Petra, died.

Continued on page 8



Subject of speculation ... Bernd Otto.

(Photo: dpa)

The blue logo

The co op group with its annual turnover of a good DM12bn and its 50,000 employees is one of the five biggest German retailing enterprises.

Michael Otto has three entrepreneurial guidelines: the customer must hold pride of place, the range must be aimed at categories of customer and the company must see the whole world as its point of view, and Spiegel was a company with hidden potential.

There is nothing new about the idea that the customer is king — any more than there is in the adage that not everything can be sold to everyone.

But Otto-Versand can fairly claim not to have been outdone in covering the entire world.

The group has mail order firms of its own in Austria, Belgium, Britain, France, Holland, Japan, Spain and the

In the wake of growing concentration in the retail trade as a whole, it has also long since ceased to be just a food company group.

Under chain names such as Plaza Bielefeld, Hush Puppies, Mayer Schuh und Sport, Richter Spiel und Hobby, Bolle, Safeway, Schade und Füllgrate, Wandmacher, Promarks and Baumarkt it sells goods ranging from toys and clothes to lawn-mowers.

In the light of recent events, co op beat a retreat in the field of consumer electronics: the takeover candidate Phora in Münheim retained its independence.

As opposed to most of its competitors co op is no longer just a retail distribution group, but also produces itself.

The co op Industrie AG (Dortmund) includes firms which produce meat and sausages, chocolate and confectionery as well as a spirits bottling firm.

In addition, co op owns various foreign firms, shareholdings and real estate.

The group is organised in an incomprehensible structure of interlocking company links, which makes it extremely difficult to identify the real ownership structures.

Four foreign banks (the Schweizer Bankverein, the Dutch Amro Bank, the American Security Pacific, Nations Bank and the Swedish Svenska Commercial Banks) have a 72 per cent share in the share capital of the parent company co op AG (DM450m).

The rest is owned by small shareholders, the co op pension fund and various institutional investors.

Part of the capital (DM30.9m) was distributed at the stock exchange in autumn 1987.

(Nordwest Zeitung, Oldenburg, 25 February 1989)

Continued on page 8

■ BUSINESS

You just order it and Otto just mails it — anywhere in the world



Expansion course ... Otto's Michael Otto.

(Photo: Otto-Versand)

United States. This year they will be joined by a subsidiary in Italy. Negotiations with Italian companies are said to be on the brink of conclusion.

He deploys his rhetorical talent as board chairman of Otto-Versand in the firm's interest; he is reluctant to divulge details of his private life; he readily and keenly discusses his hobby, modern art.

As a businessman he has plenty to say for himself. He runs a Hamburg company that has become the world's largest mail order group.

Group turnover in 1987/88 was DM12bn, up 11.3 per cent, with a payroll of 28,000 and 23 wholly-owned firms or holdings in 10 countries.

Eighteen years ago Otto-Versand's turnover was DM1bn.

Michael Otto has three entrepreneurial guidelines: the customer must hold pride of place, the range must be aimed at categories of customer and the company must see the whole world as its point of view.

There is nothing new about the idea that the customer is king — any more than there is in the adage that not everything can be sold to everyone.

But Otto-Versand can fairly claim not to have been outdone in covering the entire world.

His staff soon changed, streamlining the product range and aiming it mainly at working women earning good money.

Spiegel's delivery service was improved and rationalised too.

The most difficult problem is that there have only been mail order firms in Japan for a few years, so Japanese consumers must first be accustomed to the idea of ordering through the post.

Confidence-building is what counts, he says, banking on the modern, working Japanese woman earning money of her own:

"We believe our women customers are keen on shopping practically and conveniently."

Their custom must first be solicited, but advertising in the Far East is entirely different from advertising in the West.

"Any fashion magazine in Germany is delighted to accommodate an advertiser," Michael Otto says. "Not so in Japan, where there are waiting lists of two to three years."

Another example of how different Germany and Japan are is the length of time complaints take to handle on the telephone in Tokyo:

"In Germany customers who ring to register complaints come straight to the point. In Japan they first explain that they are well-disposed toward the company in principle, then — and only then — say what the trouble is."

Despite these differences — and the time it takes to appreciate them — Otto-Versand's Asian commitment is going ahead on schedule.

Turnover is currently DM90m a year, with a target of DM500m a year by 1992. Michael Otto is convinced this target can be achieved.

In outlining his internationalisation strategy he is as eloquent with his hands and eyes as he is in what he says.

He goes in for plain words and clear gestures. The wrinkles at the corner of his eyes are from laughing, not from worrying.

He is in good physical shape for a man who will shortly be 46, and he seems to have enjoyed life so far, arguably because of the responsibility he has shouldered, not despite it.

Michael Otto is evidently as willing to take up unconventional ideas as he is persuasive, discreet and enthusiastic.

Ralph Boeddeker

(Welt am Sonntag, Hamburg, 19 February 1989)

Politics at first hand

Detailed and objective information is what you need if you are to hold your own on politics and world affairs: facts on which to base your own political viewpoint.

Aussenpolitik, the quarterly foreign affairs review, gives you facts at first hand for an annual DM50 plus p&p.

Write today for a sample copy of the English edition, at no obligation, to the publishers, INTERPRESS GmbH, Hartwicusstr. 3-4, D-2000 Hamburg 76, Federal Republic of Germany.

Tel. (040) 229 06 09.

Coupon for a sample copy —

Name _____

Address _____

Country _____

Profession _____

Telephone _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Postcode _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Country _____

Postcode _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Country _____

Postcode _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Country _____

Postcode _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Country _____

Postcode _____

City _____

■ THE ECONOMY

In search of an elusive perfect balance (and settling for something less)

What we need is equilibrium, not hectic fluctuations. An economy, however, is very rarely in a perfect state of balance.

One can be satisfied if it oscillates somewhere near the point of equilibrium. At the moment a further cornerstone (in addition to the objective of full employment) of the "magic square" of economic policy goals is off balance: price stability.

We were once convinced that this magic square of economic growth, full employment, price stability and balance of payments equilibrium could be kept stable with the help of the *macroeconomic policy measures* of the national government.

Today it is clear that such national management hardly works in an interpenetrated international economic environment (not to mention the shortcomings of national government policies).

Former Bonn Chancellor Ludwig Erhard had an almost easier task in this respect.

When he began ridding the young Federal Republic of Germany of the jumble of controls and regulations following the 1948 currency reform the Deutsche Mark was nowhere near being a convertible currency.

This soon changed, not because the

government politicians or heads of the central bank were so efficient, but because entrepreneurs had become more willing to take risks.

The Federal Republic of Germany tries to maintain the equilibrium envisaged in the "magic square" by means of sensitive policy tools, including the advice of scientific experts for political decision-makers, rather than by means of investment control.

According to Section 6 of the law of 1964, the Council of Economic Experts for the Assessment of Overall Economic Trends (popularly known as the "five wise men") convened for the first time.

This panel of independent economic experts was set the task of analysing and evaluating the economic development, but is not allowed to make recommendations or policies in any way.

Right from the start, however, there was no way of preventing the inclusion of controls and regulations following the 1948 currency reform the Deutsche Mark was nowhere near being a convertible currency.

This panel of independent economic experts was set the task of analysing and evaluating the economic development, but is not allowed to make recommendations or policies in any way.

Today, for example, with industry moving dangerously close to overheating, liquidity should be skimmed off.

For foreign trade reasons, however, this is more difficult than the legislator originally believed.

Many dreams have had to be buried simply because the government is unable

to contain countercyclical movements despite a sophisticated system of economic forecasting.

This does not mean that the government has no option but to resign itself to the role of night watchman.

What is should do is concentrate greater extent than it has done so far, the parameters of the general economic framework.

And this in a period of a growing awareness of environmental problems, following the initial phase of a return to the market, a second phase of alleged macroeconomic management, and a third (unfinished) phase of withdrawing from economic activity and a spoon-feeding individuals.

The government must change the conditions accordingly, conditions which must apply to everyone in a competitive economy.

The best way to develop an effective pay-as-you-pollute principle is to link it to the market.

The envisaged flat-rate scrapping bonus of DM200, for example, is too low.

If the dealers of car manufacturers forced to take back cars ready for scrap heap this would be passed on to the prices — and would stimulate design to think more seriously about waste, postal costs.

This is just one example of how where the generally overrated government could, and should, exert its influence.

Maybe the Stability Law will reappear on the scene at some stage in the future to try to achieve an equilibrium which will probably never achieve its permanent form.

Franz Thom
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Nr.
25 February)

Continued from page 6

Döding has been married since 1953. Döding's political influence on other trade unions and in the Federation of German Trade Unions (DGB) is astonishing.

He also has a strong position in the SPD's trade union council, where he is classed as a right-winger.

In Döding's opinion, "an out-and-out strategy of conflict leads directly to a weakening of the trade union movement."

Döding and the NGG have done pioneer work in the field of pay settlements.

The former early retirement provisions and the current partial retirement plans are rooted in ideas first advocated by Günter Döding.

Döding, however, wanted the partial retirement regulations to be an additional measure and not a follow-on measure for the early retirement regulation in the form now introduced by the Bonn government.

dpa
(Mannheimer Morgen, 23 February 1989)

220,000 suppliers of 75,000 products 'made in Germany'



Who manufactures what?

Find suppliers and products, send for quotations, compare prices, track down special sources of supply, cut costs by buying at lower prices.

This is a reference work every buying department should have at the ready.

Easy to use, just like an encyclopaedia:

Products, including 9,000 trade marks, are arranged alphabetically, complete with

Manufacturer's or supplier's address.

A telephone number is listed for each supplier.

1,400 pages A4, indexed in English and French.

Price: DM98.44 post free in Germany, DM107 off abroad. Air mail extra.

Order direct from us or from your regular bookseller.

DAV-Verlagshaus

Postfach 11 04 52
D-6100 Darmstadt
Federal Republic of Germany

Tel.: (0 61 51) 3 91-0

■ SPACE RESEARCH

X-ray satellite will open another window to the universe

A German X-ray satellite, Rosat, is due to be launched in February next year. If all goes well the X-ray data it relays from outer space will enable astrophysicists to compile a comprehensive X-ray chart of the universe.

Astronomers have opened up a manner of windows looking out into the universe and its increasingly remote and distant past.

One of the most important advances this century has been the use of radio waves for scientific observation of the cosmos.

But stars and galaxies emit another kind of radiation that has only lately lent itself to observation: X-rays.

Astronomers hope X-ray exposures of the universe will reveal details of physical cosmic processes that have hitherto been either inaccessible or only partially accessible to observation.

They hope, for instance, to learn more about quasars, so distant and still so mysterious, about dual stars and black holes.

X-rays are emitted when electrically charged particles of matter are accelerated in a field or at extremely high temperatures (over 100,000°C).

In a number of dual star systems consisting of celestial bodies that rotate round each other like the Earth and the Moon, the compact star has such a power

of gravity that it attracts matter from the other.

This matter is heated in a so-called accretion disc before reaching the compact star, emitting X-rays in the process.

X-rays are also emitted in the vicinity of black holes, invisible sources of gravity that engulf and devour any matter that comes near them.

An X-ray observatory cannot be set up on Earth because this radiation is totally absorbed in the upper atmosphere.

That is why there have only been X-ray exposures of outer space since the 1960s when the United States put the Uhuru satellite into orbit.

A number of X-ray satellites have since been launched. One of the most recent was the European Exosat, which went off the air in 1986 after three years in eccentric terrestrial orbit.

Observation has so far invariably been limited to individual celestial objects, about 10,000 of which have been located.

But an exhaustive chart of stars that emit X-rays has not yet been compiled. A new venture aims to remedy this state of affairs.

The project has been planned for about 10 years and is expected by project manager Edgar Bachtler of Dornier to cost the industrial companies associated with it about DM240 million.

The project can already look back on a chequered history. Initial plans date back to 1977; the feasibility study on which it was formally based was carried out in 1979.

Contracts to develop and manufacture project equipment were not awarded until October 1983, when the satellite was expected to be launched on board the US space shuttle toward the end of 1987.

The satellite was to have been launched free of charge in return for allowing NASA to carry out its X-ray detector experiment on board.

When the Challenger catastrophe flooded the US space research programme in January 1986 it was clear that the Rosat launch would have to be postponed.

Development difficulties had already made a delay until early 1988 inevitable, but US shuttle redevelopment and rescheduling of priorities made several years' further delay seem likely.

There were plans to use another launcher, a rocket, in collaboration with NASA, with whom contracts had been signed.

Rosat would clearly need to be converted to different external dimensions and a different link with its carrier, but that posed no fundamental problems.

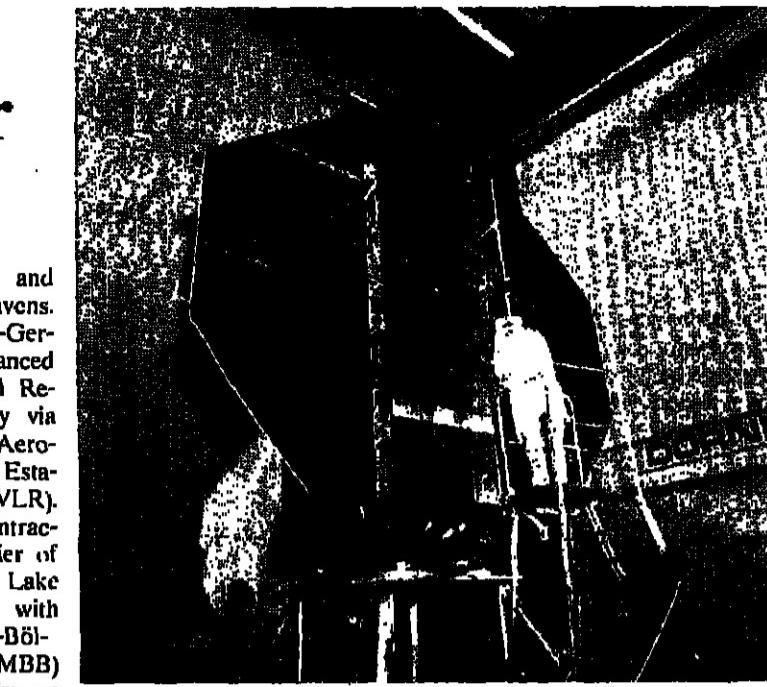
For a few months plans were geared to an Atlas Centaur until NASA finally committed itself to a Delta-II as a launcher vehicle.

Conversion took about two years, accompanied by unexpected difficulties at Carl Zeiss, where the layer of gold, the reflector, fell far short of requirements where homogeneity was concerned.

An entirely new production facility had to be developed and built. The gold was eventually sprayed onto the reflector rather than steamed onto it as originally planned.

Zeiss can now fairly claim to have built the world's smoothest reflector, so smooth as to qualify for an entry in the Guinness Book of Records.

If the reflector's surface area were the



Rosat is one of the biggest satellites ever built in Europe.

(Photo: Dornier)

size of Lake Constance the tallest hump, or deviation from absolutely plane, would be 0.1mm.

This record reflector will one day be able to distinguish between cosmic X-ray sources only a few arc seconds apart.

It has been finished and ready for use since June 1988, while the Rosat X-ray telescope is in storage in a dust-free room in Immenstaad awaiting final adjustment.

Dornier have now announced that the satellite has arrived from Munich after several months of successful stress trials.

Rosat weighs two and a half tonnes and is about 4.5 by 4.5 by 2.5 metres in size, making it one of the largest satellites so far built in Europe.

Following conversion it resembles a long rectangular box with retractable solar paddles.

It looks nothing like a conventional reflector or lens telescope. X-rays are not reflected or refracted by matter; they simply pass through it.

They are only reflected when they almost pass by, just stroking the surface at a very wide angle.

This factor is used in X-ray telescopes. Rosat's reflector looks like four cylindrical tubes of reflecting ceramic glass of varying diameters inserted into each other, as it were.

In reality each cylinder consists of two halves, the first of which, nearer the telescope opening, is parabolic in shape, collecting the X-rays.

The rear semi-cylinder is hyperbolic in shape, which reduces errors in reproduction and the focal length.

The rays converge on one of two measuring devices that count the number of X-ray quanta and register their energy.

They can be replaced automatically by the NASA detector.

Rosat is to orbit the Earth at an altitude of 580km (350 miles), spending six months doing nothing but charting the sky.

For a further year it will then be available for long-term scientific observation of cosmic X-ray sources, with unprecedented sensitivity and high resolution guaranteed.

Rosat will relay all data to a ground station at Weilheim, near Munich, always assuming the hopes of all concerned with the project are fulfilled and it is launched successfully and without mishap next February.

Rainer Käßig
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 18 February 1989)

■ LITERATURE

The serious author stands up with his blue book still intact

Erich Kästner is world-famous for his children's books, particularly *Emil und die Detektive*, published in 1929, but there was a more serious side to his work as a writer which is not so well known. His books were banned and burned in 1933, but he stayed on in Germany to be "an eyewitness and one day give evidence," as he wrote in his diary. He would have been 90 in February; he died in 1974.

Before Berliners had any real idea about air raids and bomb attacks, before curious children scrambled through the first bombed homes looking for shrapnel, which they swapped at school, before "unwelcome" citizens had left or been stripped of their nationality, arrested or sent to concentration camps, Erich Kästner, successful author and film script-writer, wanted to remain.

He preferred to stay and be an eyewitness to what was happening and what would happen.

Despite the fact that he was given warnings, despite the fact that his books were burned in 1933, despite the fact that his name was already on the unwanted list, he did not want to go away but be a member of the multitude who stayed in the Third Reich "yet kept a diary."

He wrote in *Notabene 45*, the title under which his diaries were published: "During the Third Reich there was inconspicuously on my bookshelves a blue book, whose pages were empty, at least at first. This harmless empty volume was the notebook in which I recorded insidious things.

"I filled the empty pages with short-hand outlines. I recorded under keywords events which I did not want to forget for a future novel. Three times I began a diary, each time for six months, in 1941, 1943 and 1945.

"Until 1943 the blue book was hidden away among the four thousand other books on the shelves. Because the air raids had become so alarming, I put it in my briefcase, which never left my hand, along with my reserve sponge bag, my torch, my bank book and other articles. In this way it escaped the fire which burnt the other four thousand books.

"My blue book still exists, along with my bank book. Both are documents of their time. The entries in the bank book have lost their worth now, but the notes in the diary hopefully have not."

Erich Kästner would have been 90 in February. He died 15 years ago in Munich on 29 July 1974.

He would probably have liked to have lived longer than 75 years for he was never idle, even if he was quieter and more domesticated in his later years, according to his friend Hermann Kesten:

Kesten recalled: "Fundamentally, in his old age, he was more himself. If he was asked what he was working on — a novel? — he replied: on myself."

In 1961, when his diary *Notabene 45* was published by the Atrium Verlag, Zürich, there appeared at the same time the *Deutsches Schriftstellerlexikon*, published by the Volksverlag Weimar in East Germany.

This volume classified German writers, "from the beginning to the present day" as "proletarian" or "bourgeois".

The entry for Kästner read: "Kästner, Erich. Born 23.2.1899 Dresden; bourgeois-humanist writer, mainly a satirist. Began as a left-wing bourgeois critic of the bourgeois lifestyle."

"Has today accepted the bourgeois social order without surrendering his reservations (anti-militarism). K. comes from the petty bourgeoisie."

This despite the fact that his father, Emil Richard Kästner, was a hard-working upholsterer, who could barely feed his small family.

Kästner later wrote: "My father was chased out of the kitchen. He was exiled. From then on in the evenings he sat in the cellar behind the crate, between piles of coal and potatoes, wearing a cardigan and thick carpet slippers."

"This was his workshop. Here the smoke from his cigar swirled up in the air. There in the cellar he heated his glue, bubbling away on a spirit stove."

"His mother, whom he loved, was just as busy. She was a hairdresser. She had learned to do hair when she was 35 so as to feed her family and finance her son's studies."

Erich Kästner wrote his PhD thesis on the views on literature of Frederick the Great in Leipzig. Then he felt that fortune was pushing him to go to Berlin.

Erich Kästner was also hard-working. At first he wrote sketches and thoughtful freelance items for the *Neue Leipziger Zeitung*.

Then he was taken on as a working student and, later, hired as a full-time journalist by Richard Kaiz, the newspaper's managing director, who had read what he had written with satisfaction.

Then this welcome extra money suddenly stopped, when Kästner published an erotic poem entitled *Abedind eines Kammervirtuosen*, which began with the harmless lines: "You, my last, my ninth symphony, when you wear the pink-striped nightie..."

In 1936, the year the Olympic Games took place in Berlin, another volume of his work was published, *Doktor E. K.'s lyrische Hausapotheke*, later filmed, made him world-famous by 1928.

In October 1934 he wrote to his mother in Dresden (he did so almost every day):

"It seems that there is something particularly bad to be said about me, because Klaus Mann has reprinted in his newspaper abroad something from my books. Now the authorities think that I sent it to him."

In 1936, the year the Olympic Games took place in Berlin, another volume of his work was published, *Doktor E. K.'s lyrische Hausapotheke*, later filmed, made him world-famous by 1928.

Secretly Kästner made contact with a publishing house in Zürich. Until 1942, that is, when suddenly he was given special permission to work on film scripts under a pseudonym, for the films *Baron Münchhausen* and *Der kleine Grenzverkehr*.

The contacts with the film people eventually saved him. He left Berlin with

geo-humanist writer, mainly a satirist. Began as a left-wing bourgeois critic of the bourgeois lifestyle.

"Has today accepted the bourgeois social order without surrendering his reservations (anti-militarism). K. comes from the petty bourgeoisie."

Kästner said of Kästner: "Yes, the coffee house was where he communed with his muse, it was his study, the place in Berlin where he met his friends and girlfriends, his office, where he dictated to his secretaries."

He continued: "We both came from the provinces, I from Nuremberg. We were both radical but not Marxists. We were both pacifists without belonging to a pacifist organisation."

"We did not join any political party, and took sides, politically and in a literary sense, with justice, freedom and against social oppression, against militarism, chauvinism and inhumanity."

It is not surprising that Kästner got more and more into difficulties.

His first two books, the volume of poetry *Herr auf Täle*, and his children's book *Emil und die Detektive*, later filmed, made him world-famous by 1928.

In October 1934 he wrote to his mother in Dresden (he did so almost every day):

"It seems that there is something particularly bad to be said about me, because Klaus Mann has reprinted in his newspaper abroad something from my books. Now the authorities think that I sent it to him."

In 1936, the year the Olympic Games took place in Berlin, another volume of his work was published, *Doktor E. K.'s lyrische Hausapotheke*, later filmed, made him world-famous by 1928.

Secretly Kästner made contact with a publishing house in Zürich. Until 1942, that is, when suddenly he was given special permission to work on film scripts under a pseudonym, for the films *Baron Münchhausen* and *Der kleine Grenzverkehr*.

The contacts with the film people eventually saved him. He left Berlin with

he learn? He became what Nazis of the "Blood and Earth" variety called an "assault" or "coffee house" writer.

His friend Hermann Kesten got to know him in 1927 at a tea party in a villa in the Grunewald to which he had been invited by the widow of Siegfried Jacobsohn, the founder of the left-wing weekly *Weltblätter*.

Kesten said of Kästner: "Yes, the coffee house was where he communed with his muse, it was his study, the place in Berlin where he met his friends and girlfriends, his office, where he dictated to his secretaries."

He continued: "We both came from the provinces, I from Nuremberg. We were both radical but not Marxists. We were both pacifists without belonging to a pacifist organisation."

"We did not join any political party, and took sides, politically and in a literary sense, with justice, freedom and against social oppression, against militarism, chauvinism and inhumanity."

It is not surprising that Kästner got more and more into difficulties.

His first two books, the volume of poetry *Herr auf Täle*, and his children's book *Emil und die Detektive*, later filmed, made him world-famous by 1928.

In October 1934 he wrote to his mother in Dresden (he did so almost every day):

"It seems that there is something particularly bad to be said about me, because Klaus Mann has reprinted in his newspaper abroad something from my books. Now the authorities think that I sent it to him."

In 1936, the year the Olympic Games took place in Berlin, another volume of his work was published, *Doktor E. K.'s lyrische Hausapotheke*, later filmed, made him world-famous by 1928.

Secretly Kästner made contact with a publishing house in Zürich. Until 1942, that is, when suddenly he was given special permission to work on film scripts under a pseudonym, for the films *Baron Münchhausen* and *Der kleine Grenzverkehr*.

The contacts with the film people eventually saved him. He left Berlin with

other bitter pill to swallow: only a third who knew of the existence of the European Parliament had a very high opinion of it as a European institution.

In the Federal Republic 44 per cent had "in general a poor opinion" of the directly elected Parliament, in Britain and Holland it was more than a half.

Only just about 20 per cent of the people in the European Community have an unlimited good opinion of the Parliament in Strasbourg.

All parties are therefore agreed that their most important task is to encourage voters to vote, more important than party political disputes about individual themes.

Gerd Walter, the lead SPD candidate in the 18 June election, said: "We must make clear to the voter that policies are really made in Strasbourg in matters concerning environmental and consumer protection, and in many other areas, which directly affect European Community citizens."

According to an investigation of the "Eurobarometer," the survey regularly commissioned by Brussels, less than a half of the people in the Community know that there really is a European Parliament.

Then Euro-parliamentarians have an



Erich Kästner

(Photo: Sven Simon)

false papers in March 1945 and saw the ending of the war as a member of a UFA film unit in the Zillerthal.

In August 1945 he went to Munich, helped to set up the cabaret "Die Schababude" and was head of the arts pages of the *Neue Zeitung*, licensed by the Americans.

Although Kästner wrote many successful books he had doubts about his ability to write "the novel of the year 1933 to 1945."

The more he doubted the more he cherished the idea of writing such a book.

He said: "One cannot organise a list of victims and executioners, million long. One cannot compose in statistical terms. Anyone who takes that on will not produce a great novel, only an orderly, but deformed, bloody address book, seen from the artistic point of view."

From 1951 to 1960 Kästner was president of the Federal Republic's PEN Club, and honorary president until his death.

When Kästner was awarded the Büchner Prize in Darmstadt, he spoke in his acceptance speech about Büchner's drama and then came back to the theme of his diary.

He said: "When I thought about historical material I wondered why there were no historical comedies... Naturally I know that a Prussian king plays a part in *Minna von Barnhelm* without actually appearing on stage. But it is hard to refute my assertion that there are many marvellous historical tragedies but no historical comedies."

I content myself with the supposition that the book of history is a particularly serious and sad read. There is nothing to laugh about in it."

Unfortunately this very serious Kästner is less popular or well-known than is the author of the *Die Schababude* books and films, such as *Das illegale Klassenzimmer*, *Die doppelten Löffel*, *Plätzchinen und Anton* and *Der 35. Tag*.

The wish of the "neat young man" from Dresden has obviously been fulfilled.

Kesten recalls his first conversation with Kästner clearly.

"I said that one must aim to impress the elite of the century. Kästner added: 'I wanted to please ordinary people, more readers the better.'

More than 35 years later, Gerd Kästner, who had safely escaped, found in Munich that on his bookshelf "where the diaries of that time stood there was still room."

He decided to publish his own *Notabene 45*. Armin Jüchter

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt)

(Jüdische Zeitung, 17 February 1989)

■ FILMS

Jewish collection reveals a present mirrored against the past

What is portrayed? A nation lives so long as its language lives. This is one of the aphorisms in *Cooperation of Parts* by Dan Eisenberg.

There is no Yiddish in the film, only American English, neither in the escalating sermons in sounds off nor in epigrams in the subtitles.

The pictures dance, stumble, hop along, jolt along in rhythm to a travelling train, rock with the spectator's walk.

The documentary element is to be found in the associations: Munich, the Church of the Theatines, Dachau, Auschwitz today in long focus, country-side.

Like Akerman Eisenberg excludes documentary images. The truth lies behind the pictures, in inherited knowledge through suffering.

If you do not know something you must look for it. Our parents said little or nothing, because only by suppression was it possible to live on. Institutions remain.

Debbie Goodstein from the US underlined this in *Voices from the Attic*.

An hour's drive away from Auschwitz there was a room measuring 15 square metres where 16 members of her family were hidden away for two whole years: thirteen of them survived.

The men shave off their beards, the women put their wigs away. There are places reserved for Jewry: the so-called Borscht Belt, a place in the Catskill Mountains, 100 miles from Manhattan, named after the poor man's beetroot soup.

The countryside is green and idyllic, former neighbours remember the visitors and are delighted at seeing them again.

In opposition to views of the countryside and laughing faces there is the world, seen through gaps in wood. The camera pans through sheds, through the grim, barren land.

One has to think about the 16 people, a woman was sitting there and sang a song of the past.

The narrative turns the harmless location into the place of horror. The past is obliterated, killed.

The dead remains of the Jewish Schett (village) — showed in document-

ary dubbing in — paved pathways and roads in Poland. The horror remains.

The descendants want to know what was so as to be able to tell it again.

That is the driving force of their films. They filmed the stories of their predecessors to be able to get closer to history.

Time works like a grinding stone. Two thousand years of the diaspora has brought about a variety of travels, exiles and losses. Whoever fled the Holy Land after the destruction of the Second Temple has not yet arrived at his destination. So many Jews. So many peoples.

This is a cynical insight: what programs did not bring about, what mass extermination did not achieve is now under threat of assimilation without violence — the gradual disappearance of Jewry.

What do documents have to tell? What do pictures and figures show? They are just empty! the destiny of the individual does not amplify them, does not make them conceivable.

Chantal Akerman knows this, and for this reason she does not include documentary images — like Ken Jakob in *Urban Peasants: an Essay in Yiddish Strife*.

His experimental film is strict: there are "neither words nor pictures." The screen is black at the beginning and the end, framing cuts from a recorded course in Yiddish and silent *Home Movies* from the 1930s and 1940s.

This is a film of oddments put together on the chance principle, fragments from Jewish family life in Brooklyn placed together, with tough cutting techniques, sometimes over-lit; some passages repeated.

How do the people react on the same-



■ MYSTERY OF MIGRATORY BIRDS

South west for eight weeks and then straight ahead for another eight

We all know that many birds migrate south in autumn, and no prizes are awarded for guessing why. How they find their way there and back in spring is another matter, one that has preoccupied scientists for decades.

Despite many a success to which they can lay claim they can still not explain for sure how migratory birds manage to fly back from Africa year after year and find the very same nest in which to breed.

It is not an easy problem to solve. Birds have been found to go by at least seven different navigation systems and techniques to set a course and stay on it.

The Sun and stars are self-evident navigation guides. Birds may also be able to recognise certain areas they overfly by means of smells and infrasonic waves.

Latest ornithological findings mainly indicate that a variety of factors are involved. Scientists refer to a "multifactorial" system the ramifications of which they are only just beginning to understand.

Frankfurt University research scientists Wolfgang and Roswitha Witschko, specialists in bird migration, recently outlined the latest findings.

New navigation aids have regularly been discovered since Gustav Kramer showed starlings to be guided by a solar compass 40 years ago.

Fly-by-nights like the warbler were

DIE WELT

soon shown, by means of planetarium experiments, to be guided north by the Pole star and its celestial neighbours.

Merkel and Witschko proved in 1965 that robins and whitethroats used a magnetic compass.

Migratory birds do not go by magnetic north, however; they are guided by the angle of magnetic field lines. Yet no-one knows how they identify them.

Many species have since been found to orient themselves by the Earth's magnetic field.

This initially triggered heated controversy, the Witschkos said, because the stars and a magnetic compass were felt to be mutually exclusive alternatives.

Birds are now known to use the magnetic field not only as a kind of foul-weather navigation system; they also use it to check and realign their individual orientation system.

They evidently transfer magnetic field data to their individual solar or stellar compass and then fly by the stars, which may well be easier to read.

"Experiments have shown on balance," they said, "that the magnetic field is the factor by which birds are guided

during migration and which they use to check their stellar compass."

Once they are on course they can use simpler techniques to stay on it. Scientists so far know very little about these secondary navigation systems, such as "sunset factors" for night-flying birds, infrasonic waves and landmarks.

The findings are contradictory and strongly indicate that differences exist between species. Migratory birds are definitely guided by a combination of factors that alone can be said for sure.

The Witschkos feel their mysterious ability to go by the Earth's magnetic field may be the main factor, but directional guides (which way to fly) also take the form of a genetic code.

In other words, birds go by both the magnetic field and by celestial rotation as a system of reference.

This is arguably surprising inasmuch as each factor, taken individually, would seem to be sufficient for satisfactory orientation — and is so for a number of species.

Migratory birds possess what technicians call a redundant system, a secondary facility on which to fall back in the event of breakdown.

This belt-and-braces arrangement has only recently been favoured as a standard procedure for complicated technical equipment.

A further inexplicable factor is the absolutely accurate biological clock by which birds register the time of day.

Numerous experiments have been carried out to upset this "built-in" time-piece by, for instance, artificially switching night and day, confusing the birds accordingly.

But scientists to this day have no idea where the biological clock is located and how it works. All they know for sure is that it runs for longer than 24 hours.

Birds also have a seasonal clock by which they judge when the time has come to migrate, and this "inner calendar" is probably accompanied by an exact sense of target navigation.

Migratory birds must have both an inherent sense of direction and some idea of the distance to be covered. Some kind of programme then deals with the details.

An important part in the time birds spend on the wing is played by their migratory unrest. Dr Eberhard Gwinner and research staff at Radolfzell bird observatory have shown the duration of this restive period to correspond exactly to the time it takes them to complete their autumn migration.

This point was proved using caged

birds — young birds brought up by hand — of a species of small songbird that spends the winter in Africa.

Records of their restive behavior not only showed them to be at the most restive in August and September when free-flying members of their species are crossing the Mediterranean to the Sahara. Their unrest also reflects the direction the flock takes.

Wolfgang Witschko and Eberhard Gwinner have carried out experiments on young whitethroats with no experience of migration.

They were found to be most restive in the south-west corner of their cage in August, when the flock is heading south-west across Central Europe.

Then, in early October, they were south-east over Gibraltar and cross the Sahara, heading for Central Africa.

Oddly enough, the caged whitethroats moved to the south-east corner of their cages at the same time, *exactly* in exactly the same direction as whitethroats on the wing.

The time schedule that relates to the distance covered during the migration period can evidently also control the direction, the Witschko say.

"The information genetically programmed in the warbler's instincts must consist of the instructions: 'To south-west for about eight weeks, the south-south-east for a further eight weeks or so!'"

In spring the caged birds only show signs of being restive in the northern corner of their cages. On their way back to their breeding areas the whitethroats are clearly in a hurry.

They fly due north across the Sahara and the Mediterranean, as even young birds that have yet to migrate seem to know. This genetic programme enables them to reach Africa even though it has never flown south before.

This programme is of enormous importance for an estimated five billion birds that migrate from continent to continent every year.

It is the only way in which they can be sure of finding food, sustenance and suitable living conditions in winter.

Professor Peter Berthold of Radolfzell has demonstrated the existence of this genetic component with his classic studies of another breed of warbler.

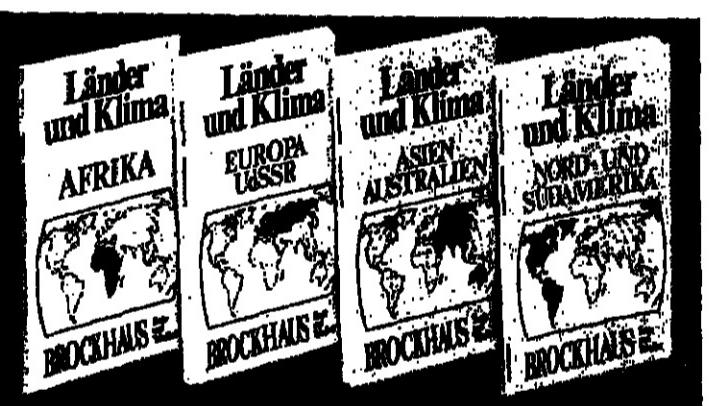
It is the blackcap, a particularly interesting breed in that European populations vary in their migration patterns: some don't migrate at all, staying in the Cape Verde.

When blackcaps from Finland, with longer distance to travel, are cross-bred with blackcaps from south-western France their young demonstrate what scientists call intermediate behaviour.

In other words, their flight time is genetically programmed. So migratory birds are not merely sent on their way by more powerful rivals and forced to leave for this reason.

Matthias Glauert
(Die Welt, Bonn, 18 February 1989)

Meteorological stations all over the world



supplied the data arranged in see-at-a-glance tables in these new reference books. They include details of air and water temperature, precipitation, humidity, sunshine, physical stress of climate, wind conditions and frequency of thunderstorms.

These figures compiled over the years are invaluable both for planning journeys to distant countries and for scientific research.

Basic facts and figures for every country in the world form a preface to the tables. The emphasis is on the country's natural statistics, on climate, population, trade and transport.

The guides are handy in size and flexibly bound, indispensable for daily use in commerce, industry and the travel trade.

Four volumes are available:

North and South America, 172 pp., DM 24.80;
Asia/Australia, 240 pp., DM 24.80;
Africa, 130 pp., DM 24.80;
Europe/USSR, 240 pp., DM 24.80

Look it up in Brockhaus
F. A. Brockhaus, Postfach 1709; D-6200 Wiesbaden 1

Continued from page 4

Landesbank, so, saving, secretarial and communications costs."

The second building has been leased out to Bremen and Hesse.

The United States has for a long time realised the advantage of regional representation. Lobbyists from California, Maryland and Michigan have been involved in information gathering for some years.

A cute suggestion came recently from Texas to put an end to the trade war about hormone-treated beef from America. Contrary to widely held views the Texans can supply hormone-free beef to Europe. "It is astonishing how nimble the old

lady Federalism can be," Herr Neukirchen says. The latest development is that the Bundesrat has established a European Community chamber. This committee sits within the four-week rotation system and so discuss legal, proposals and decisions more swiftly.

The chairman of the "mini-Bundesrat" is always the authorised representative of the state from which the president of the Bundesrat comes.

At present Marianne Tidlock, minister from Schleswig-Holstein, is chairing the small Bundesrat club.

Almut Hauenschild
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 17 February 1989)

ma, whose authenticity gives it worth, and its cinematic documentation which was too little known at the time.

Research scientists are finding it extremely difficult to trace the way in which environmental toxins affect the body.

It was the first feature film to be shot in Germany using original documentary material.

Along with the actors people who lived in various southern German displaced persons camps appeared in it.

The film tells about what happened to many. David survived in the forest with the partisans. His father was murdered in Auschwitz. Post-war Warsaw. Everything is rubble, in ruins. Rescue in the displaced persons camp. Over-crowding and the search for relatives.

This is conventional narrative cine-

■ MEDICINE

Environmental toxins are blamed for increase in human infertility

Früher keiner Kinderschuh

So they must be sufficiently mobile and have an intact membrane and a functioning acrosome (the enzyme-filled tip that enables sperm to penetrate the ovum).

In vitality tests these so-called sperm parameters were tested in test tubes.

Chlorinated hydrocarbons were shown to affect each of these parameters, each substance proving most devastating at a different point in the process.

"Polychlorinated biphenyl seems to be the most intensive," says Dr van der Ven. "The damage it causes increases with the dose."

DDE, a member of the DDT family, triggers the "acrosomal reaction," for instance, releasing the enzymes before an ovum is anywhere near to penetrate.

So much for that sperm; it will no longer do the trick.

Hexachlorobenzene, in contrast, damages the sperm membrane, making it less able to dock alongside the ovum, while PCB drastically reduces sperm mobility.

A particularly devastating factor is that the toxins start to work in concentrations that have been shown to exist in many people's bodies (between one and ten nanograms per millilitre of body fluid).

These are concentrations that can lead to sperm damage in men. Healthy spermatozoa can also be made infertile by corresponding toxin counts in the female genital tract.

Fat-soluble substances such as DDT and PCB are enriched in women's follicle fluid and might, in theory, stand substitute for the contraceptive pill.

A daily cup of coffee or tea containing a suitable quantity of pesticide or weedkiller residue might well also serve as a contraceptive if the worst came to the worst.

An estimated 2.3 million tonnes a year of these substances are sprayed on crops all over the world.

Rhodanide, a tobacco derivative, has also been identified in a high concentration in follicle fluid. Thus smoking may also be cause of infertility.

People in other jobs are also liable, to an above-average degree, to the "new infertility" — due mainly to stress and mental upset in addition to environmental toxins.

American scientists have also identified traces of nicotine in the mucous membrane of the uterus. They say it occurs in a concentration 10 to 20 times

Continued from page 11

Weg, made by Herbert Freydrich and Marek Goldstein in 1947. It was not shown in Bavarian cinemas then.

It was the first feature film to be shot in Germany using original documentary material.

Along with the actors people who lived in various southern German displaced persons camps appeared in it.

The film tells about what happened to many. David survived in the forest with the partisans. His father was murdered in Auschwitz. Post-war Warsaw. Everything is rubble, in ruins. Rescue in the displaced persons camp. Over-crowding and the search for relatives.

Spermatozoa have a number of important tasks to fulfil in the process of conception. They must swim strongly and straight ahead, find the ovum and dock alongside it before merging with it and unloading their genetic cargo.

This is conventional narrative cine-

tre teams have a striking number of miscarriages.

This suspicion has been confirmed in animal experiments. Rats and mice drugged only once three or four weeks prior to conception were found to have 27 per cent miscarriages, as against an average 14.7 per cent among rodents.

People who work in seemingly healthy trades, such as farmers, wine-growers, foresters, gardeners, citrus fruit pickers and florists, also often seem threatened with infertility as a result of everyday contact with pesticides and weedkillers.

Both men and women are affected, and other risk groups (only a few) include workers in chemical factories, lead and copper foundries, spray-painting workshops, leather, rubber and textiles factories and refineries.

Even laundry workers can be affected. Danish doctors who compared painters and construction workers found a significantly higher proportion of 30- to 40-year-old painters to be infertile.

Where you work can affect fertility; so can where you live. In Malmö, Sweden, men who lived in a district with heavy industry were found to have a markedly lower sperm count than men in the city's rural environs.

They didn't just have far fewer than what can ordinarily be up to 120 million spermatozoa per millilitre of ejaculate; the sperm of men affected by heavy industry near where they lived tended to be more deformed.

Sterility, miscarriages and deformities can all be traced back to environmental toxins with infertility often fore-stalling deformities in the first place, as it were.

This factor can easily lead to a misinterpretation of the risk run by working in a particular job or in a specific environmental situation, as Norwegian statistics show.

Women employed in the leather and textiles industries were found to have distinctly fewer handicapped children than others, but that wasn't to say that they run fewer risks than women working in other industries.

Closer scrutiny revealed that they had up to 50 per cent more miscarriages than the others, with the result that damaged embryos did not survive to be deformed.

Mankind may not become extinct as a result of these toxins, Professor Beier says. Human procreation is far too robust for that to be likely, which is more than can be said for many species.

But environmental toxins are already contributing substantially toward population decline in the industrialised countries.

With reference to the societal consequences of this trend a Hamburg doctor, Wilfried Karraus, says:

"Since these countries have advanced medical technology they will increasingly establish treatment centres for procreational medicine, which at first glance would seem simpler to treat than reducing work and environmental burdens."

"But many people have yet to appreciate how expensive this trend will be for the health service."

Dr Karraus also has plain words to say about a further aspect. About 40 per cent of pregnancies in the Federal Republic of Germany at present end with an abortion.

So 83,500 live births a year must be seen in comparison with 205,000 abortions or miscarriages. Between 20 and 30 per cent of the latter are, he says, due to environmental toxins and dangerous substances at work.

Eva Elisabeth Fischer
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 1 March 1989)

Michael Odewald

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 18 February 1989)

The radio tolled away. Gymnast Stefanie Tautz chattered about her tonsil operation. She smiled and crawled about the gymnasium floor.

Nine coloured clips and a rubber band kept her hair in place — for when she defied gravity. Then in a flash the chatterbox became a hard-working girl.

She jumped up the asymmetric bars, twisted round a parallel bar, the mere sight of which made the spectator wince, and went up to dizzy heights in a hand spring. She slammed back to the ground — and smiled.

Stefanie Tautz seemed relaxed in the summer of 1986 — because a heavy burden had fallen from her narrow shoulders.

A short time before-hand Stefanie, 16, had been expelled from the German Gymnastics Association's training school in Frankfurt.

National trainer Vladimir Prorok and gymnastics training assistant Ursula Hinz had told Stefanie that they did not want her at the school any longer.

Their reason was that Stefanie, who had been sick, had let her trainer from her home gymnasium, Hans-Joachim Dörner, pay her a visit in the school's gymnasium, after she had been to the doctor in Detmold.

She was just a pawn in a game played by sports officials, and as such she was a case of interest for Hamburg educationalist Professor Karlheinz Scherler.

His thesis is that within the sports system sportmen and women are told what to do by others.

Professor Scherler's report was made before a sports forum organised by the parliamentary party of the Greens in December last year on competitive sport for children.

At the same forum Professor Walter Bärsch, chairman of the children's protection association, criticised more sharply sports activities.

He said: "The demands made of young athletes have become brutal, because the concept of childhood is no longer taken seriously. Children are turned into objects of misanthropic interests."

This is very true. Stefanie Tautz regarded her expulsion from the training school more as a salvation than a punishment, even though at first it seemed she was to go no further up the ladder of success.

She said: "At the Frankfurt school there were only three things, doing gymnastics, doing gymnastics, doing gymnastics."

Unlike many of her fellow young gymnasts, who in recent times have not developed physically and mentally, Stefanie Tautz did not end her career.

She went back to her trainer in her hometown, Detmold, Hans-Joachim Dörner. He had had to leave Frankfurt for what was said to be professional incompetence. He held quite different views about training for competitive sport than national trainer Prorok.

At Detmold he applied the idea of building up performance in line with age.

Dörner regards a child's age as only a transit point towards first-class performance, and as a consequence he is against specialisation too early to protect children against non-reversible strains on the tendons, bones and cartilage.

Describing his methods, he said: "I place emphasis on a precise and finicky basic training. This should be completed by the age of 12. But at this age no extremely difficult gymnastics should be done," Dörner said.

He pointed out that the physical dangers for young female gymnasts were sufficiently well known.

■ YOUTH

It's not only gymnastics up on the parallel bars

Hans-Joachim Dörner was rehabilitated four months after his sensational departure from Frankfurt in 1986.

Stefanie Tautz became the German gymnastics champion in 1988. At the West German championships at Singen she won four out of the five titles.

She is now 19 and the once-scorned girl is now the German Gymnastics Association's great hope for the world championships in Stuttgart in October.

Her late successes were all the more surprising since Stefanie had actually ended her career in 1987 after a severe foot injury.

Then she overcame her pride. Explaining what drove her on to her comeback after so many disappointments she said: "I wanted to show those people at the Frankfurt school something."

She also has high hopes for a grant for her intended studies in the United States through her good performances on the parallel bars, over the hurdles, on the vaulting-horse and on the floor.

Dr Bodo-Knut Jüngst of Mainz said that diet was a particular danger for young girls.

Explaining this point he said: "The diets for quite a few girls in sport no longer make sense entirely. The diet can be an abuse of the child with all its consequences for hormone development, for her when she begins to menstruate and the psychological problems that can follow on from that."

Heinz Döring, former sports pastor of the Protestant Church of Germany, has had experience of the emotional consequences of perilous ambition.

He said: "At the Olympic Games I have seen young sportmen and women make themselves sick to keep their weight and how they have had to take substitute preparations. The young people were affected deep within them-

selves. "So, out of a reverence for a competitive sport for children should be rejected."

Examples such as Stefanie Tautz who has gone through many years of gymnastics relatively unharmed, are rare.

The decision to go in for aerobics has to be taken at a very early age.

Federal gymnastics trainer Reinhard Hornig lamented the lack of fundamental training when gymnasts were young after the depressing national team against the Russians in December.

Dörner also concedes that if we want to compete internationally, early start has to be made, as Stefanie Tautz did, who began to train seriously at the age of eight.

Success can be achieved by keeping sports training centres at a distance. Explaining the key to her performance Dörner said: "Steffi needs her normal surroundings, her friends and her family life."

She also does all she can to avoid the tendency of competitive sport occupying gymnasts' lives totally.

After return from jogging, she had to slim down to her competition weight of 49 kilograms.

After consideration of the various options the Greens intend to present the recommendations made by the children's protection association to Bundestag.

But who wants to have the public prosecutor in the gymnasium? It seems more important that "objective unselfishness," as Bärsch put it, should increase about children doing gymnastics, that parents, officials and trainers come the temptations of glory and honour.

Stefanie Tautz has now got through the dangerous beginner period.

Describing the qualities of a sportswoman Dörner said: "A good woman gymnast must be independent minded. Stefanie Tautz knew what she wanted. She has gained a lot mentally."

*Udo Ludwig
(Deutsche Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung)
3 February 1989*

The Boy Scouts seek new knots to tie

Werner Sauerhöfer is from the Federal Youth Ring, the umbrella organisation for youth associations. He said that membership numbers were dropping particularly among political groups.

Social services such as the Junior Red Cross and junior fire brigade were very popular among young people — perhaps because of the uniform.

The Ernmid Institute, Bielefeld, made a survey in 1987 which showed that 44 per cent of young people belonged to one organisation or another: according to Hans Hillmeier of the Bavarian Youth Ring this was ten per cent lower than a similar study in 1984.

Nevertheless, according to the Federal Youth Ring the degree to which youth is organised has not changed over the past few years. Between 25 and 30 per cent of young people have always belonged to an organisation.

These associations are now making greater efforts to attract young people because the market is diminishing. During the 1960s more than one million children were born per year; last year it was no more than 600,000.

Describing his methods, he said: "I place emphasis on a precise and finicky basic training. This should be completed by the age of 12. But at this age no extremely difficult gymnastics should be done," Dörner said.

He pointed out that the physical dangers for young female gymnasts were sufficiently well known.

Continued on page 16

DM30bn. A spokesman for the Göttingen savings bank said that at young people were already set in their consumer patterns. Young people had to be convinced of the qualities of pe-

ople who are outsiders in society. Centuries after gypsies broke away from the Indian motherland their descendants are still not regarded very highly, and they have endlessly met with hostility.

Harald Hiller, a gypsy from Frankfurt, said more in resignation than in anger:

"It's like in the Middle Ages. If we want a hall to hold a celebration we have to pay a high deposit. And on top of that we have to seek police protection. But we don't make any trouble."

At the Standing Conference of German Town Councils in Cologne Adam Strauss, a gypsy from Darmstadt, appealed passionately for "permanent sites where we are not driven off after two or three days."

His precisely typed letter ended asking that his request "be evaluated with a feeling for other human beings."

This is an expression of anger and grief, and an attempt to adjust by a crushed minority.

Companies frankly admit this. A bank employee said: "Our activities are carried on against a commercial background. We can hardly get involved in solving young people's problems. They are the traditional youth work facility for that."

Youth organisations see the danger for them at this point. Johannes Höglund, head of the Baden-Württemberg Youth Ring, said: "The 'commercial world' picks out the plums in the round of dealing with young people, leaving us to deal with the problems."

Independent youth organisations see themselves under pressure from the state, and not just due to continued financial worries, as Sauerhöfer put it.

According to the Federal Youth Ring the proposed new rules for youth legislation will trim their influence on youth work in favour of the public sector.

Although young people's lives are increasingly getting snarled up, and workers have to straighten things out, education officials ignore the broader aims of education.

Hillmeier sees in this a welfare shyness in which the state's involvement in youth work is increasingly direct.

Continued from page 14

social problem groups. Fewer and fewer funds are being made available for pure "recreation" or young people's social lives.

The history of flight, persecution and murder of these Indian itinerants, gypsies, is long. Gypsies emigrated into the Holy Roman Empire 600 years ago.

Hillmeier said that youth associations had long since said goodbye to their monopoly position: in providing young people with leisure activities, young people do not want to have anything to do with "clubbiness." Doing things in groups is out. Project work is in.

According to Hillmeier a travel agency tempted 15-year-olds with a sparkling white wine breakfasts.

He said that he diametrically opposed to what youth organisations were all about.

*Thea Emmeling
(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 4 February 1989)*

The 10 million

Ten million gypsies are living scattered throughout the world, with different traditions, different dialects and different ways of behaviour. Gypsies are divided into two tribes, Roma and Sinti. Originally they came from the Punjab in northern India. The Sinti arrived in Germany 600 years ago. Their language, Romani, is very similar to Sanskrit, but it includes elements from all the countries through which the gypsies have travelled. The itinerant groups were at first received in a friendly manner. Many German princes offered them protection and safe conduct. The situation changed when economic conditions changed. Between 1497 and 1744 no less than 146 edicts were issued against gypsies. They were outlawed by the Reichstag of 1497. At the beginning of the 18th century the first gypsy laws were enacted and at the end of the last century officialdom began registering details about them. The Nazis systematically sought to annihilate them. After 1945 relatives and survivors were given no compensation of any kind, morally or financially.

place in Cologne. The city is regarded as a "pacemaker for the idea of integration."

Gerd Becker of the Frankfurt group concerned about gypsies said: "At least there is debate there. All other communities try to dodge the issue."

Cologne city council will integrate 100 gypsies. Nine "supporters," acceptable to the city, have guaranteed to accept personal financial liability as "godparents" and "partners" for gypsy families who have expressed their willingness to be integrated into society.

These groups are mainly associated with the Protestant City Superintendent, Pastor Manfred Kock.

That is not many compared with the 700 who are waiting for official permission to stay in the country. However when compared with the strict defensive stance adopted by other local communities the Cologne Partnership Pilot Programme is an attempt to break the cycle of "illegality, migration, distress and crime."

Details of the project have been circulated by the German Cities Conference as a reference paper.

But the debate among the political parties in Cologne's City Council has aroused doubts that the "mild line" might not be continued.

Many voluntary helpers who are concerned about gypsy affairs, including members of the gypsy Partnership Group, have demanded that "high-sounding resolutions, declarations of intent and moral attitudes should in this case be handled by the Council of Europe for the protection of the Sinti and Roma minority."

They should be acted upon in private homes instead of by the federal states and local administrations.

Students, professors, pastors, social workers and particularly housewives have telephoned hospitals and local government offices, accompanied gypsies to the aliens department and to the social affairs office.

They have made trips to embassies, obtained the services of interpreters and driving school teachers to teach gypsies who are illiterate.

They all arbitrate conflicts between various groups, and every evening type letter after letter which begins: "Dear Mr. Town Clerk..."

*Annette Stankau:
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger,
Cologne, 18 February 1989)*